

longer speak and govern on issues relating to the integrity of this House, we will have forever damaged this institution.

I urge members to uphold the Committee on Ethics recommendation.

BALANCE BUDGET FOR WORKING PEOPLE AND AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, this is the debt of the United States on December 19, almost \$5 trillion. Now, I think there is one thing we agree with on both sides of the aisle, that the economy is very important; not only reducing the deficit and paying off the debt, but to American families.

Mr. Speaker, just a few facts that I think are very interesting: A recent study shows that the optimum level of government spending is 17.6 percent of the gross national product. Unfortunately, government spending is 4 percentage points higher than that. If we would reduce it, we could increase the amount of energy in our economy. For every dollar of Federal spend down to the optimum level, we could get \$1.38 in growth.

This week, the Dow Jones dropped 50 points when the President scuttled the budget process. Let us get back to it. Let us balance the budget for our working people and for our families.

RISK IN DELAYING AFDC CHECKS

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to some of my Republican colleagues in private about this matter, and I want to say it publicly to the balance of my colleagues. If we do not pass a continuing resolution today or tomorrow at latest, 4.7 million families who are on AFDC are in risk of not getting their AFDC checks come January 1 of next year.

There are consequences that go with that, and I want to remind my Republican colleagues that they are playing with fire, if they think people will sit by and idly wait on them to play budget games with their lives and their ability to eat.

They came forward with a continuing resolution for veterans yesterday, and I am calling on my colleagues today to come forward with a continuing resolution to address this serious problem.

TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is strange that day in and day out

we keep hearing from the President and from his liberal friends that come to the well of the House and talk about how they want a balanced budget. But to hear them talk, \$12 trillion over the next 7 years is not enough. They want a balanced budget, but they are not willing to balance it.

I think they want an unbalanced budget, just like they have had for the last 26 years. More spending, more spending. And let me say this: In the year 2012, what are they going to do when every tax dollar will be consumed by entitlement and interest on the debt, and there is no future for our children and grandchildren? What are they going to do then?

It is time we get serious about a \$5 trillion debt. It is time that we get serious and not play these games. What are you willing to do to get a balanced budget?

BUDGET GAMES

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this chart shows the headlines in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and the Washington Post this morning. They cut straight to the chase. One reads "GOP rebellion scuttles accord on the budget talks." Another reads "House Republicans derail budget talks." The other one from the Wall Street Journal says "The Republicans are revolting." They should read that Republicans keep government closed to give tax cuts for the few.

It appears as though there is a group that will not compromise and insists on holding not only government workers, but Social Security applicants hostage in keeping the Government shut down until they accept their harmful budget cuts and ill-advised budget-busting tax cuts for the few.

I am committed to balancing the budget, and I am also here to say I am committed to senior citizens, children, police officers, veterans, teachers, and students, and I will not sacrifice them to balance our budget.

We should remain committed to balancing the budget over 7 years, and doing so in a way that protects the priorities of Medicare, Medicaid, crime fighting, and education. Balancing the budget is not an agreement to do on Christmas eve. It is something you have to do all year.

EXCUSES FOR NOT BALANCING BUDGET

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has not balanced the budget in 26 years, I would like to remind the gentleman, so let us just start out with the facts.

President Clinton vetoed the balanced budget passed by the House and Senate. Then 30 days ago, after his poll numbers dropped, he vowed to sign a balanced budget in 7 years using real numbers. He did nothing for 30 days.

Then the four leaders met and agreed to three things. First, we are going to balance the budget in 7 years using real numbers; second, it is nice that we can all agree; and third, we are going to do it by yearend.

Within 5 minutes, one of the four participants in the meeting, AL GORE, stepped outside and repudiated two of the three. "No, we are not going to use real numbers and we are not going to do it by the end of the year." OK, AL, so much for the agreement.

Then the President yesterday found a new excuse why he could not go along with the balanced budget. Aliens had taken over the House and they would not let this nice guy NEWT GINGRICH sign a deal to reopen government. I could not believe it.

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The stock market did not believe it. While he was spinning that tale, it went down 50 points, but the liberal press bought it. Today's excuse: Aliens and unidentified flying objects will capture BOB DOLE and he will not be able to sign.

Folks, there are 236 Republicans on this floor that are for a balanced budget in 7 years with real numbers. Let us do it for our kids.

REAL BUDGET IMPASSE IS TAX CUT FOR THE RICH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the real budget impasse is a \$270 billion tax cut for the rich. NEWT GINGRICH calls it the crown jewel. That is where the budget impasse exists. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be part of the reform-minded Democratic freshmen who believe we can balance the budget without taking away from our children, or making devastating cuts in Medicaid, Medicare, and the environment. This is where we are today.

And Mr. Speaker, we have another problem with the welfare bill to be proposed on the floor of the House today. This is an unfriendly Congress when it comes to children. There are no work programs in this proposed Republican welfare plan for the parents of these children. This legislation does not want the welfare recipients to be independent. The Republicans have cut the work programs out. We take away \$14 billion from Medicaid so that women and children cannot get good health care that are on welfare, and then those children who are disabled, the severely disabled children, 320,000 of them, this welfare bill tells them that we do not care about you by cutting their needed SSI benefits.